



RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COLLEGE DICTIONARY

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RANDOM HOUSE
NEW YORK

In remembrance
Stuart Berg Flexner
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pentagram to peplum

pen-ta-gram (pen-to-gram), *n.* 1. a regular five-pointed, star-shaped figure, used as an occult symbol. Also called *pentagram*. [1825-35; < Gk *pentagramma*, *See* *pent-*, *-gram*]
pen-ta-he-dron (pen-to-he-dron), *n.* 1. a solid figure, having five faces. [1855-65] — *pen-to-he-dral*, *adj.*



pentagram

pen-tam-e-rous (pen-tam-er-us), *adj.* 1. consisting of or divided into five parts. 2. (of flowers) having five members in each whorl. [1820-30; < fr. *pentamerus*, *See* *pent-*, *-merous*] — *pen-tam-er-ous-ly*, *adv.*

pen-tam-e-ter (pen-tam-ter), *n.* 1. a line of verse consisting of five metrical feet. 2. a continued verse of five iambic feet; English heroic verse. — *adj.* 3. consisting of five metrical feet. [1540-50; < L *pentameter*, < Gk *pentamētrion*, *See* *pent-*, *-meter*] — *pen-tam-eter-ic*, *adj.*

pen-tam-er-ous (pen-tam-er-us), *n.* an antiprotozoal substance, C₁₂H₁₄N₂O₄, used in treating pneumocystis pneumonia, toxoplasmosis, and typhlocystosis. [1941; *pentamer* + *-ous* (as in *antipentamer*)]

pen-tane (pen-tan), *n.* a hydrocarbon of the methane series, having three equal homers, the most important of which, C₁₀H₂₂, is a highly volatile petroleum distillate used as a solvent and an antiseptic. [1875-80]

pen-ta-plaid (pen-to-plaid), *adj.* 1. having a chromosomal number that is five times the haploid number. 2. a pentaploid cell or organism. [1920-25]

pen-ta-pla-id (pen-to-pla-id), *n.*

pen-ta-ry (pen-ter-ee), *n.* 1. a government or governing body consisting of five persons. 2. a union of five states or kingdoms, each under its own ruler. [1580-90; < Gk *pentarchia*, *See* *pent-*, *-archy*] — *pen-tar-chie*, *n.* — *pen-tar-chie-cal*, *adj.*

pen-ta-stich (pen-to-stich), *n.* a strophe, stanza, or poem consisting of five lines or verses. [1630-60; < NL *pentastichus* < Gk *pentastichos*, *See* *pent-*, *-stich*]

Pen-ta-teuch (pen-to-tyuk), *n.* the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Compare *Heptateuch*, *Septuagint*. [c. 11. *Pentateuch* < L *pentateuchos* < Gk *pentē teucha* + *-chos* (as in *teuchos*), *See* *pent-*, *-teuchos*, *See* *teuchos*]

pen-ta-thlete (pen-ta-thlet), *n.* an athlete participating or specializing in the pentathlon. [1820-30; < Gk *pentathlon* and *athletēs*]

pen-ta-thlon (pen-ta-thlon), *n.* 1. an athletic contest comprising five different track and field events and won by the contestant achieving the highest total score. 2. modern pentathlon. [1700-10; < Gk *pentathlon* < *pent-* + *athlon* (contest)]

pen-ta-ton-to scale (pen-to-ton-to scale), *n.* a musical scale of five tones that is comparable to a major scale without the fourth and seventh degrees. [1860-68]

pen-ta-ton-to scale (pen-to-ton-to scale), *adj.* 1. having a valence of five; pentavalent. 2. quinquivalent. [1870-75]

pen-ta-ton-to scale (pen-to-ton-to scale), *n.* a synthetic narcotic analgesic, C₁₇H₁₉N₃O₆. [1960-65; *pent-* + (*pent-*), a component of its chemical name]

Pen-to-ten (pen-to-ten), *n.* 1. a Christian festival celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles; Whit Sunday. 2. *Savvorn*. [1600; NE *pentecost*, *See* *pentecost* < L *pentecostē* < Gk *pentēkostē* (fiftieth day)]

Pen-ta-thet-ic (pen-to-thet-ic), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to Pentecost. 2. noting or pertaining to any of various Christian groups, esp. fundamentalists, that emphasize the activity of the Holy Spirit, stress boldness of living, and express their religious feelings uninhibitedly, as by speaking in tongues. [1940-50; < L]

Pen-ta-thet-ic (pen-to-thet-ic), *n.* Latin name of *Pentecost*. — *Pen-ta-thet-ic-ism*, *n.* — *Pen-ta-thet-ic-ian*, *adj.*

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pentagram

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